* Customs Duty on seconds and defective category of steel has been kept at the bound rate of 40%
* Pre-shipment inspection certification has been made mandatory for imports of seconds and defectives of all steel items; and
* Ministry of Steel has proposed certain more steps to further reduce import of seconds and defectives in the budget proposals for 2003-04.

(c) There has been a marginal decrease in the import of seconds and defectives in 2001 -02 compared to 2000-01, particularly in the category of HR Coils.

Restructuring of ailing steel plants

3267. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a restructuring package for revival of ailing steel projects, where about Rs. 35000 crore are locked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also analysed and identified causes of sickness of the projects and suggested steps, so that similar errors are not repeated in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) No specific restructuring package is under consideration by the Government for revival of the ailing private sector steel industry.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The prevailing economic recession during the past few years as well as slump in prices are primarily responsible for the downturn in the steel industry. The high cost of servicing of old loans as well as high cost of power and freight are other problems besetting the industry. There are signs of revival during the past six months due to firming up of prices of steel products.

Production projects of SAIL

†3268. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production is going on in many projects under Steel Authority of India Limited;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total number of projects, alongwith details of products of each project; and

(c) the names of the projects suffering losses continuously during the last three years, alongwith the total amount of loss suffered by them, at the end of March 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)There are four Integrated Steel Plants and three Special Steel Plants under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).The products of each of the SAIL Steel plants are as under:

Integrated Steel Plants	Products Mix
Bhilai Steel Plant	Semis, Rails & Heavy Structurals, Merchant products (Angles, Channels, Rounds &TMT bars), Wire Rods (TMT, Plain & Ribbed) and Plates (upto 3600 mm wide)
Durgapur Steel Plant	Merchant products, Structurals, Skelp, Wheels & Axles and Semis
Rourkela Steel Plant	Plate Mill Plates, HR Plates, HR Coils, ERW Pipes, SW Pipes, CR Sheets & Coils, Galvanised Sheets (GP & GC), Electrolytic Tin-Plants and Silicon Steel Sheets
Bokaro Steel Plant	HR coils, Plates & Sheets, CR Coils & Sheets, GP/GC Sheets and Tin' Mill Black Plates.
Special Steel Plants	
Alloy Steels Plant	Slabs, Blooms, Bars, Plates and Forged items, CRM rolls concast rollers, crane wheels, springs, hammers, grate bars, hot saw blade, shear blade, bright bar, stainless steel liner plate, etc.
Salem Steel Plant	Hot Rolled Carbon & stainless steel flat product* Cold Rolled stainless steel sheets & Coils etc.
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant.	Alloy & special steels and pig iron.

(c) Names of Plants incurring losses continuously for the last three years and their cumulative loss as on 31.3.2002 are as under

Rs. in crores

Name of the Plant	Accumulated loss as on 31.3.2002
Durgapur Steel Plant	(-)4103
Rourkela Steel Plant	(-)3356
Alloy Steels Plant	(-)1225
Salem Steel Plant	(-)787
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant	(-)336

Steel Production

3269. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited has improved performance in various spheres, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the growth in production during the first half of the current year and that expected by the end of the year; and

(c) the main factors which had contributed to the improved results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a)There has been an improvement in the financial performance of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during first half of current year, during which it has cut down its loss to Rs. 467 crores aftertax as against Rs. 704 crores during the corresponding period last *year i.e.,* an improvement of 34%.The Company's operational loss has reduced by 50% over the corresponding period last year.

(b)There has been 8% growth in the production of saleable steel during the first half of the current year as compared to the corresponding period last year and the expected growth by the end of the year is about 6-7%.

(c) An increase of 12% in NSR, a volume growth of 8% in mild steel production and sales, lower capital related charges primarily contributed to improved results. Apart from this, the Company has been maintaining its thrust on cost control and rationalisation of manpower through introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme to further improve its profitability.